

*Helianthus annuus* L. var. *lenticularis* (Dougl.) Steyerl., comb. nov.  
Based on *Helianthus lenticularis* Dougl. in Bot. Reg. t. 1265. 1829.

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A MONUMENTAL WORK IS CONCLUDED.<sup>1</sup> — The appearance of Volume Four of the Illustrated Flora of the Pacific States brings to a close a project started over forty years ago by the late Professor LeRoy Abrams. Planned originally in three volumes, this four-volume work in many ways mirrors some of the growth and change in systematic botany during the period. The first volume, published in 1925, was patterned after "An Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions" by Britton and Brown. It also followed that work in the use of the "American Code" to govern nomenclatural matters. But four years before volume two was issued in 1944, volume one was corrected to reflect adherence to the "International Rules" and was reissued.

Although it would appear from the publication dates of the last three volumes that these were largely the work of an emeritus professor (Abrams retired in 1940), such is not the case. In the first place, Professor Abrams was actively at work on this Flora from 1910 or thereabouts until 1948, when he became incapacitated by a heart ailment. Secondly, the whole work was not planned to be the product of one man. From the beginning, there were collaborators who contributed the treatments for families or parts of families, genera, etc. This system of obtaining manuscript and sometimes illustrations from specialists was followed throughout the entire work. However, there was one collaborator on the first volume whose role increased in importance as each successive volume appeared, until in the final volume, in the absence of Professor Abrams, she "saw it through" as author. I speak, of course, of Roxana S. Ferris. Mrs. Ferris' whole botanical career has been closely linked to the "Illustrated Flora". In the second volume, she picked up the loose ends and labored with technical matters of all sorts. Then, as Professor Abrams' health failed, she gradually moved into

<sup>1</sup> Illustrated Flora of the Pacific States: Washington, Oregon and California. Volume IV — Bignoniaceae to Compositae, by Roxana Stinchfield Ferris. 1-732. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California. 1960. \$17.50.



the gap created by his absence and brought volume three to completion. Finally, with the solid support of Professor Ira L. Wiggins and the rest of the Dudley Herbarium staff, she alone brought together volume four.

As in the other volumes, an important feature of number four has been the participation of outside specialists. The late Dr. S. F. Blake had planned to do the *Compositae* and, though he was ultimately unable to do so, his influence was transmitted to parts of the volume through notes he supplied and through his supervision of some drawings made by his wife, Doris Holmes Blake. By far the largest number of drawings was made especially for these volumes by Jeanne Russell Janis, whose trademark J has become familiar because of the large number of illustrations she has produced over the years. Her craftsmanship is excellent and the illustrations of the present volume reflect that excellence.

It is not my present purpose to attempt an evaluation of the taxonomic treatments of the various groups covered in volume four. Such an evaluation will really come with the repeated usage of the book against the plants growing in the area covered by it, not from the reviewer's armchair. What I can say is that the book is well printed, well constructed and presents a fine appearance. In the appendix is found a key to the families treated in all four volumes. The user, then, if he does not know the family of the plant he is trying to identify, will reach for volume four to find his guide. Pages 625-652 are an index to common names and pages 653-723 are an index to scientific names; in both indices, all four volumes are included.

Too many large botanical works are never completed. This is understandable when one fully comprehends the enormous amount of effort required. The accomplishment is usually worth the effort but the frequent failures make even more significant those major undertakings that are finally brought to full fruition. In the case of the *Illustrated Flora of the Pacific States*, nearly two botanical lifetimes, that of LeRoy Abrams and a large part of that of Roxana Ferris, have been devoted to its production. It is a major work and Mrs. Ferris deserves a major salute for finally bringing it to completion — REED C. ROLLINS, GRAY HERBARIUM OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY.